



## **NEWS FROM NOAA**

**NATIONAL OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION • US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

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### **NOAA AWARDS \$200,000 TO RESTORE SALMON HABITAT IN CALIFORNIA**

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration announced a \$200,000 grant to the California Conservation Corps to restore habitat vital to salmon, steelhead and other coastal California species of fish.

The NOAA award will allow more than 300 California Conservation Corps members to implement habitat restoration projects along California streams and estuaries. Project work includes stabilizing stream banks, planting trees, constructing riparian fencing, installing log and/or boulder structures, modifying barriers to fish passage and stabilizing yards of sediment in upslope areas. These efforts give salmon and the other species natural cover from predators and swift water; reduce water temperatures; improve the fish access to historic spawning and rearing areas; and prevent excess sediment from entering the coastal streams. The objective is to implement on-the-ground habitat restoration projects that restore habitat, with the goal of recovering populations of salmon and steelhead in Coastal California.

"The continued partnership between NOAA and the California Conservation Corps demonstrates both organizations' commitment to restoring fisheries habitat," said retired Navy Vice Adm. Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Ph.D., under secretary of commerce for oceans and atmosphere and NOAA administrator. "These habitat restoration efforts support NOAA's goal of ecosystem-based management and promote local stewardship of the habitats that sustain our nation's fisheries resources."

"The long term relationship between the California Conservation Corps and NOAA has proven essential to the survival of the CCC work force to implement habitat restoration. The effects of the severe budget reductions to the CCC can only be mitigated with a strong network of partnerships and the realization that we are all part of a Resource Community that work together and support each other in good times and bad," said Larry Hand, Fortuna Center Director for the CCC's.

The NOAA funding will support the second year of a three-year partnership between the CCC and the NOAA Restoration Center Community-based Restoration Program for restoration projects that benefit California's estuarine and riverine habitats.

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The NOAA Restoration Center is a financial and technical assistance program that promotes strong partnerships at the national, regional, and local level to restore fisheries habitat. NOAA CRP works with organizations and government to support locally-driven habitat restoration projects in marine, estuarine, and riparian areas. NOAA CRP funds on-the-ground habitat restoration projects that (1) offer educational and social benefits for citizens and their communities, and (2) provide long-term ecological benefits for fishery resources. Since 1996, more than 900 projects in 26 states have been implemented using NOAA funding and leveraged funding from national and regional habitat restoration partners.

Each year, NOAA awards approximately \$900 million in grants to members of the academic, scientific and business communities to assist the agency in fulfilling its mission to study the Earth's natural systems in order to predict environmental change, manage ocean resources, protect life and property, and provide decision makers with reliable scientific information. NOAA goals and programs reflect a commitment to these basic responsibilities of science and service to the nation for the past 35 years.

NOAA, an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce, is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and providing environmental stewardship of our nation's coastal and marine resources.

The California Conservation Corps engages young men and women in meaningful work, public service and educational activities that assist them in becoming more responsible citizens, while protecting and enhancing California's environment, human resources and communities. As a non-regulatory agency, the CCC works in partnership with California Department of Fish and Game habitat staff, land managers, and land owners to scientifically identify and restore coastal watersheds that could benefit most from restoration and enhancement activities. During the 2004 fiscal year, the CCC partnered with over 40 watershed groups, land conservancies, federal agencies, counties, and nonprofit organizations to develop habitat enhancement projects. To date the CCC has restored close to 1,900 miles of coastal anadromous streams.

On the Web:

NOAA: <http://www.noaa.gov>

Community-based Restoration Program: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/restoration>